

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 MCT-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05 DODE-00 HEW-04
OES-09 /080 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14924

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL
SUBJECT: US INTEREST IN FOREIGN CIVIL PROGRAMS FOR DEFENSE
AGAINST CHEMICAL BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

REF: STATE 204325, (B) STATE 208265

1. IN CONTACTS WITH APPROPRIATE GOJ AGENCIES INCLUDING POLICE, MOFA AND JDA, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT THERE IS NO KNOWN CIVIL RESEARCH OR PLANNING IN JAPAN TO DEFEND AGAINST USE OF CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL (CBW) AGENTS. SOME OF EXISTING PROCEDURES USED IN TIMES OF EARTHQUAKES AND TYPHOONS, IN COUNTRY USED TO COPING WITH EFFECTS OF BOTH, WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE HELPFUL IN MINIMIZING COLLATERAL DAMAGE OR CBW-CAUSED DISASTER.
 2. JAPANESE SELF DEFENSE FORCES HAVE PASSIVE DEFENSE PROGRAM (BASED ON AMERICAN PROGRAMS) AGAINST CBW ATTACKS, INCLUDING USE OF PERSONAL GAS MASKS, CRB SUITS AND DECONTAMINATION VEHICLES. AS THIS IS ONLY SUCH EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE, IT SEEMS CERTAIN TO BE USED EVEN IN NON-MILITARY, TERRORIST-CAUSED EMERGENCY INVOLVING CBW
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WEAPONS. STATE OF TRAINING AND READINESS IS THOUGHT TO BE LOW.

3. PRIMARY ANTI-TERRORIST RESPONSIBILITY RESTS WITH NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY (NPA) WHICH, AS ONE RECENT INCIDENT SHOWED, WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO COPE WITH CBW ATTACK. IN CASE OF COSMOS 954 BREAK-UP, ALTHOUGH GIVEN

ADVANCE WARNING OF POSSIBLE RADIOLOGICAL DANGER, GOJ HAD NO CIVIL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM AVAILABLE TO QUARANTINE OR MOVE POPULATION. IN MORE RECENT CASE OF PROTESTERS BEING SUSPECTED (INCORRECTLY) OF CONTAMINATING NARITA AIRPORT'S WATER SUPPLY, POLICE MOVED QUICKLY TO SHUT OFF SUPPLY AND CONDUCT TESTS.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH ALLOWS ONLY CAUTIOUS PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF SECURITY ISSUES, GOJ IS FAR FROM BEING LEADER IN EVOLVING CIVIL PROGRAMS AGAINST CBW ATTACKS, EVEN IN TERRORIST CONTEXT. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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